

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 MC-02 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /083 W

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R 231203Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5993

CINCPAC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEP CHJUSMAGTHAI UDORN

COMUSMACTHAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13273

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TH

SUBJECT: RETURNED SGU EQUIPMENT

REF: A. CINCPAC 120230Z AUG 73 B. CINCPAC 120640Z AUG 73

C. SECDEF 162308Z AUG 73

1. WE FEEL THAT SUGGESTION IN REFTTEL A (AND NOTED IN REFS. B AND C) THAT SGU EQUIPMENT BE USED TO SATISFY U.S. COMMITMENT TO RTG TO FILL RTAVF EQUIPMENT SHORTAGES, IF ADOPTED, WOULD CREATE SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH RTG; HENCE, WE FEEL IT SHOULD NOT BE ADOPTED.

2. THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE RTG REGARDING THE RTAVF EQUIPMENT WAS TO SUPPLY THE RTG WITH REPLACEMENTS FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT LEFT BEHIND IN VIETNAM. IN JULY 1972, COST OF THIS EQUIPMENT WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$2.877 MILLION ACCORDING TO THEN CURRENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE SALES LIST (MASL) PRICES; THE COST OF THIS EQUIPMENT IS PROBABLY CONSIDERABLY HIGHER NOW. APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF THE RTAVF SHORTFALL EQUIPMENT (BY VALUE) IS VEHICLES: 21 M-113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, 1 M-578 RECOVERY VEHICLE, 59 CARGO TRUCKS 3/4 T W/WINCH,

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70 CARGO TRUCKS 3/4T W/O WINCH, 154 M-151 JEEPS, 8 CARGO TRUCKS

5 T, ETC.

3. THE RTG EXPECTS THE USG TO MEET ITS RTAVF COMMITMENT AND HAS PLANNED TO USE THE SHORTFALL EQUIPMENT TO EQUIP THE 9TH RTA DIVISION, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING ORGANIZED.

4. THE TYPES OF SGU EQUIPMENT ARE VERY DIFFERENT, I.E., INFANTRY WEAPONS, RADIOS AND SOME ARTILLERY PIECES.

5. THE THAI LEADERS HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. TRANSFER THE SGU EQUIPMENT TO THE RTG FOLLOWING THE DEACTIVATION OF THE SGU'S TO MEET THAI SECURITY NEEDS, REACLLING THAT THE U.S. FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF WARS IN KOREA AND VIETNAM TURNED OVER MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ROK AND RVN. THE RTG CONSIDERS THE RTAVF EQUIPMENT AND THE SGU EQUIPMENT TO BE DIFFERENT, UNRELATED MATTERS.

6. NEGOTIATIONS TO GET RTG TO ACCEPT SGU EQUIPMENT IN LIE OF RTAVF SHORTFALL EQUIPMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE ABRASIVE AND WOULD DOUBTLESS RAISE QUESTIONS OF OUR GOOD FAITH.

7. ONLY SOLUTIONS WE SEE TO MEETING U.S. COMMITMENT REGARDING RTAVF SHORTFALL WOULD BE EITHER TO SEEK SPECIAL APPROPRIATION LEGISLATION TO MEET COMMITMENT OR TO SET ASIDE FUNDS (AS SPECIAL LINE ITEM) IN A FUTURE MAP APPROPRIATION.

8. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT, IF IT CONCURS WITH OUR VIEWS, TO TAKE STEPS WITH DOD TO SATISFY RTAVF COMMITMENT THROUGH EITHER ONE OF ABOVE-MENTIONED ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS.
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